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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

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UNDP/UNFPA programming process

The Executive Board,

1. *Reiterates* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations funds and programmes should be their universality, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision 2000/12, and in this regard welcomes efforts made by the Executive Committee members of the United Nations Development Group towards further harmonization of programmes and standardization of procedures for their programmes;

3. *Emphasizes* that the programming process should be country-led and country-driven, and based on national priorities and needs, and in this connection reaffirms that the national Government has the primary responsibility for the formulation of the country programmes, in consultation with relevant United Nations agencies, including specialized agencies, and other relevant partners, as appropriate;

4. *Stresses* the importance of further strengthening the resident coordinator system through the enhancement of the collaborative partnership among United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes at both headquarters and country levels with a view to greater coherence, synergy and coordination;

5. *Stresses* the importance of a country-specific framework on which the United Nations Development Group partners would base their programmes with a view to enhancing the impact of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

6. *Encourages* programme countries that have already developed or are planning to develop a CCA/UNDAF jointly undertaken and approved by the Government to use it, on a pilot basis, as the common planning framework for United Nations operational activities at the country level, with effect from the annual session 2002;

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7. *Decides* that:

(a) The common programming process will be based on the existing common planning framework and that the national Government will develop the country outlines of the respective organizations in collaboration with the United Nations country team and in consultation with other relevant partners, as appropriate;

(b) The draft country outlines will highlight the main components of the proposed country programmes, such as priorities, strategies, outcomes and proposed budget;

(c) The draft country outlines will be presented to the Executive Boards for discussion at their annual sessions, and where applicable, the CCA/UNDAF will be made available for information;

(d) The Executive Board will review the draft country outlines, upon which the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA will assist the Government in finalizing the country programmes, taking into account comments made by the Board;

(e) The country programmes will be posted by October of the last year of the country programme on the web sites of the respective UNDG partners and will be approved in January on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing before the meeting of their wish to bring a particular country programme before the Executive Board;

8. *Requests* the Administrator and the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2003 on common tools to monitor progress and evaluate outcomes/results of respective country programmes with a view to further harmonizing and standardizing the programming process;

9. *Requests* UNDG to refine further the programming process on the basis of the present decision, taking into account the comments made in the respective Executive Board;

10. *Invites* the Executive Boards of UNICEF and WFP to discuss the programming process at their next sessions;

11. *Requests* the Administrator and the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2004 on progress in implementing the present decision.

__ *June 2001*